

Exhibit 2

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**Bulletin of
Information**

US·MLE

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TM

A Joint Program of the Federation of State
Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.,
and the National Board of Medical Examiners®

EXAMINATION CONTENT

STEP 2 CLINICAL SKILLS (CS)

Step 2 CS assesses whether you can demonstrate the fundamental clinical skills essential for safe and effective patient care under supervision. There are three subcomponents of Step 2 CS (see Table 3): Integrated Clinical Encounter (ICE), Communication and Interpersonal Skills (CIS), and Spoken English Proficiency (SEP).

Table 3: The Subcomponents of Step 2 CS

Integrated Clinical Encounter (ICE)

- Data gathering – patient information collected by history taking and physical examination
- Documentation – completion of a patient note summarizing the findings of the patient encounter, diagnostic impression, and initial patient work-up

Communication and Interpersonal Skills (CIS)

- Questioning skills
- Information-sharing skills
- Professional manner and rapport

Spoken English Proficiency (SEP)

- Clarity of spoken English communication within the context of the doctor-patient encounter

Step 2 CS uses standardized patients, i.e., people trained to portray real patients. You are expected to establish rapport with the patients, elicit pertinent historical information from them, perform focused physical examinations, answer questions, and provide counseling when appropriate. After each interaction with a patient, you will record pertinent history and physical examination findings, list diagnostic impressions, and outline plans for further evaluation, if necessary. The cases cover common and important situations that a physician is likely to encounter in common medical practice in clinics, doctors' offices, emergency departments, and hospital settings in the United States.

The cases that make up each administration of the Step 2 CS examination are based upon an examination blueprint. An examination blueprint defines the requirements for each examination, regardless of where and when it is administered. The sample of cases selected for each examination reflects a balance of cases that is fair and equitable across all examinees. While the set of cases administered on a given day will differ from the set of cases administered on another day, each set of cases is comparable.

The intent is to ensure that examinees encounter a broad spectrum of cases reflecting common and important symptoms and diagnoses. The criteria that are used to define the blueprint and create individual examinations focus primarily on presenting complaints and conditions. Presentation categories include, but are not limited to, cardiovascular, constitutional, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, neurological, psychiatric, respiratory, and women's health. Examinees will see cases from some, but not all, of these categories. The selection of cases is also guided by specifications relating to acuity, age, gender, and type of physical findings presented in each case.

<http://www.usmle.org>

Further information on Step 2 CS is available from your registration entity and at the USMLE website.

STEP 3

Step 3 is organized along two principal dimensions: clinical encounter frame and physician task (see Table 4). Step 3 content reflects a data-based model of generalist medical practice in the United States.

Encounter frames capture the essential features of circumstances surrounding physicians' clinical activity with patients. They range from encounters with patients seen for the first time for nonemergency problems, to encounters with regular patients seen in the context of continued care, to patient encounters in (life-threatening) emergency situations. Encounters occur in clinics, offices, skilled nursing care facilities,

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The USMLE program has established rules to govern administration of the examinations to ensure that no examinee or group of examinees receives unfair advantage on the examination, inadvertently or otherwise. The rules include standard test administration conditions consistent with the principles on which the examinations are developed and scored. For example, examinations are designed to sample knowledge across specified content domains, and unauthorized access to examination content prior to testing violates that principle.

If there is a reason to believe that the integrity of the examination process is jeopardized, the USMLE parent organizations may invalidate all or any part of an examination. If information indicates that continued testing would jeopardize the security of examination materials or the integrity of scores, the USMLE parent organizations reserve the right to suspend or cancel test administration.

TESTING REGULATIONS AND RULES OF CONDUCT

Test center staff monitor all testing sessions for USMLE Steps. You must follow instructions of test center staff throughout the examination. Failure to do so may result in a determination of irregular behavior (see pages 32–33) and permanent annotation of your USMLE transcript.

Test center staff are not authorized to answer questions from examinees regarding examination content, testing software, or scoring. Test center staff are also not authorized to answer inquiries with regard to registration or retesting.

If staff observe you violating test administration rules or engaging in other forms of irregular behavior during an examination, the center staff will not necessarily tell you of the observation at the time of the examination. Test center staff are required to report such incidents to the USMLE program; each report is fully investigated.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Unauthorized possession of personal items while in the secure areas of the testing centers may lead to a finding of irregular behavior and permanent annotation of your

USMLE transcript. **It is important that you read and understand the rules regarding personal possessions; the rules for Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3 differ from those for Step 2 CS.** For the computer-based examinations, you may bring soft-foam earplugs into the testing room. However, they must be out of the packaging and ready for inspection by test center staff during check-in. Earplugs must be left at the workstation during all breaks. Also, for Step 2 CS, you should understand that the entire testing session from orientation until the evaluation is completed, including all breaks, is considered a closed and secure testing session, and that the entire test center, including the orientation room and the restrooms, is a secure testing area. Therefore the rules regarding unauthorized possession during Step 2 CS extend to the orientation room and to all breaks.

For Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3, unauthorized items include, but are not limited to:

- ☐ mechanical or electronic devices, such as cellular telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), calculators, watches of any type, electronic paging devices, recording or filming devices, radios;
- ☐ outerwear, such as coats, jackets, head wear, gloves;
- ☐ book bags, backpacks, handbags, briefcases, wallets;
- ☐ books, notes, written materials, or scratch paper;
- ☐ food, candy, gum, or beverages.

For Step 2 CS, unauthorized items include, but are not limited to:

- ☐ mechanical or electronic devices, such as cellular telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), calculators, watches of any type, electronic paging devices, recording or filming devices, radios;
- ☐ book bags, backpacks, briefcases;
- ☐ books, notes, written materials, or scratch paper;
- ☐ medical equipment of any kind other than a standard stethoscope (without digital amplification, electronic, or any other enhancement).

If you bring personal items to the test center, you must store them in a designated locker outside the secure testing area or in the designated storage area for Step 2 CS. You should keep in mind that the storage facilities are small and that all stored mechanical or electronic

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devices must be turned off. Personal items and their contents are subject to inspection. Any materials that reasonably appear to be reproductions of any USMLE examination materials will be confiscated. Making

notes of any kind during an examination, except on the materials provided by the test center for this purpose, is not permitted. Removal of those materials from the secure testing area is prohibited.

Rules of Conduct

When you apply to take the USMLE, you are agreeing to the following Rules of Conduct:

1. You are the person named on the Scheduling Permit for the examination.
2. You will not give, receive, or obtain any form of unauthorized assistance during the examination or during breaks.
3. You will not have any formulas, study materials, notes, papers, or electronic devices of any kind in your possession while you are in the secure areas of the center.
4. You will place in a locker or cubicle all personal belongings, including cellular telephones, watches, pagers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), formulas, study materials, notes, papers, and your purse or wallet, before you enter the testing room (or Orientation Room for Step 2 CS).
5. During the computer-based examinations (Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3), you will not leave your testing station for breaks unless the break screen is visible on your monitor. It will be considered a violation of the Rules of Conduct if you indicate on the center log that your break screen is visible when it is not.
6. During computer-based testing (Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3) you may use a telephone or other communication device while outside the secure testing area and only during an authorized break. You may not use it for any purpose related to test content. During Step 2 CS you may not use a telephone at any time while you are in the testing center.
7. You will not remove materials in any form (written, printed, recorded, or any other type) from the test center.
8. All examination materials remain the property of the USMLE parent organizations, and you will maintain the confidentiality of the materials, including the multiple-choice items, and the case content for Step 2 CS and *Primum* CCS. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through memorization or any other means. Also, you will not provide information relating to examination content that may give or attempt to give unfair advantage to individuals who may be taking the examination. This includes postings regarding examination content and/or answers on the Internet.

If you violate these Rules of Conduct, you may be directed to leave the test center before you complete the examination. Also, evidence of violation of any test administration rule, including these Rules of Conduct, will result in actions being taken under USMLE policies and procedures on irregular behavior. If you are found to have engaged in irregular behavior, your score report and transcripts will include this finding, and you may be barred from taking the USMLE in the future.

INDETERMINATE SCORES AND IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR

VALIDITY OF SCORES

The USMLE program assures the validity of scores reported for USMLE examinations by every means available. Your scores may be classified as *indeterminate* if the scores are at or above the passing level and the USMLE program cannot certify that they represent a valid measure of your knowledge or competence as sampled by the examination. The USMLE program may make such a determination when aberrancies in performance are detected for which there is no reasonable and satisfactory explanation. A classification of *indeterminate* may result from irregular behavior (see following section) or from other factors, such as unexplained inconsistency in performance within a Step or Step Component or between takes of the same Step or Step Component.

The performance of all examinees is monitored and may be analyzed statistically to detect aberrancies indicating that your scores may be indeterminate. In addition, evidence of irregular behavior may suggest that your scores do not represent a valid measure of your knowledge or competence as sampled by the examination. In these circumstances, your score report may be delayed, pending completion of further analysis and investigation. If your score report is delayed, you and any other party to whom scores would normally be reported will be notified. You will be provided with a copy of the *USMLE Policies and Procedures Regarding Indeterminate Scores*, which describes the process for reaching final decisions. You will have an opportunity to provide information that you consider relevant.

After review and analysis of all available information, scores will be classified as valid and will be reported, or scores will be classified as indeterminate. If the scores are classified as indeterminate, you will be advised of the options for retaking the examination. Scores classified as indeterminate do not appear on your transcript; rather, an annotation indicates that the scores were classified as indeterminate. Scores classified as indeterminate will not be reported to anyone. Anyone who has received a report of scores that are later classified as indeterminate will be notified of the indeterminate classification. The *USMLE Policies and Procedures Regarding Indeterminate Scores* describes the circumstances in which informa-

tion about the indeterminate classification will be provided to entities that receive or have received your USMLE transcript.

If irregular behavior appears to have contributed to a decision that your scores are indeterminate, action will also be taken as described below.

IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR

Irregular behavior includes any action by applicants, examinees, potential applicants, or others when solicited by an applicant and/or examinee that subverts or attempts to subvert the examination process.

If you have information or evidence indicating that any type of irregular behavior or any infringement of legal rights has occurred, you should submit a written report to or telephone the USMLE Secretariat (see page 35) or the registration entity (see page 34).

Specific examples of conduct that is deemed to be irregular behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ☐ seeking and/or obtaining unauthorized access to examination materials;
- ☐ providing false information or making false statements on or in connection with application forms, Scheduling Permits, or other USMLE-related documents;
- ☐ taking an examination without being eligible for it or attempting to do so;
- ☐ impersonating an examinee or engaging someone else to take the examination for you;
- ☐ giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized assistance during the examination or attempting to do so;
- ☐ making notes of any kind while in the secure areas of the test center except on the writing materials provided at the test center for this purpose;

INDETERMINATE SCORES AND IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR

- ☐ failing to adhere to any USMLE policy, procedure, or rule, including instructions of the test center staff;
- ☐ verbal or physical harassment of test center staff or other disruptive or unprofessional behavior at a test center;
- ☐ possessing any unauthorized materials, including photographic equipment, or communication or recording devices, including electronic paging devices and cellular telephones, in the secure testing areas;
- ☐ altering or misrepresenting examination scores;
- ☐ any unauthorized reproduction by any means, including reconstruction through memorization, and/or dissemination of copyrighted examination materials by any means, including the Internet; and
- ☐ communicating or attempting to communicate about specific test items, cases, and/or answers with another examinee, potential examinee, or formal or informal test preparation group at any time before, during, or after an examination.

NOTE: Looking in the direction of another examinee's computer monitor or talking to another examinee during the examination may be reported as evidence of giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized assistance. The report may result in a determination of irregular behavior. Discussion of examination content or answers on the Internet may also result in a determination of irregular behavior.

If information received suggests that irregular behavior has occurred, statistical analyses may be conducted and additional information may be gathered.

You will be advised of the alleged irregular behavior, and you will have an opportunity to provide information that you consider relevant to the evaluation of the allegation. Your scores may be withheld, if they have not been reported previously. Applications may not be processed, and you may not be permitted to take subsequent examinations until a final decision regarding irregular behavior is made. You will be provided with a copy of the *USMLE Policies and Procedures Regarding Irregular Behavior*, which describes in detail the process for reaching final decisions regarding irregular behavior. If the evidence suggests that the alleged irregular behavior affects score validity, the score will also be reviewed as described on page 32.

If it is determined that you engaged in irregular behavior, information regarding this determination becomes part of your USMLE record. Your score report (if applicable) and USMLE transcript will contain a notation regarding the irregular behavior.

Information about the irregular behavior will be provided to third parties that receive or have received your USMLE transcript. Such information may also be provided to other legitimately interested entities. If it is determined that the irregular behavior is egregious and/or threatens the integrity of the examination system, you may be barred from future USMLE examinations and/or special administrative procedures may be implemented for your future examinations. The USMLE program also reserves the right to take such actions when information regarding behavior of examinees on predecessor examinations indicates such actions may be necessary to ensure the security of the USMLE.